

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7511

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: MIDDLE-EAST CONFLICT

1. EXTENSIVE, PRO-ARAB COVERAGE OF MID-EAST WAR CONTINUES IN YUGOSLAV MEDIA, WITH EDITS CASTIGATING REPORTED ISRAELI BOMBINGS OF CIVILIAN TARGETS IN DAMASCUS AND CAIRO.

2. BELGRADE PRESS OCT 11 CARRIES DESPATCHES FROM BOTH FRONTS, AND CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS FROM ARAB CAPITALS (ALSO AFP, TANJUG, UPI, AP, REUTERS, MENA), WITH BRIEF NEWS ITEMS (UPI, REUTERS), FROM TEL AVIV. CONTINUING WORLD REACTION TO CONFLICT IS ALSO COVERED. DAILIES POLITIKA AND BORBA INCLUDE LENGTHY TANJUG UN REPORT WITH EXCEPTS OF FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC ADDRESS AT SECURITY COUNCIL. TODAY'S POLITIKA ALSO CARRIES (PAGE 4) THREE BRIEF NEWS ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON: PRESIDENT NIXON'S OCT 10 STATEMENT THAT DECISIVE TURNING POINT NOT YET IN SIGHT; MCCLOSKEY PRESS STATEMENT (OCT 10) ON SIVIET SHIPMENTS OF ARMS TO MID-EAST; AND CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST THAT U.S. REPLACE ISRAELI AIR LOSSES.

3. IN OCT 11 (PAGE 2) EDIT, POLITIKA ATTEMPTS EQUATE REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI AIR RAIDS ON DAMASCUS AND CAIRO WITH "DESTRUCTION BY

HITLER'S LUFTWAFFE OF COVENTRY, BELGRADE, AND OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES." REFERRING TO REPORT THAT U.S. PLANS TO COMPENSATE ISRAEL FOR EVERY PLANE LOST, "PERHAPS EVEN WITH SURPLUS," EDIT DRAWS CONCLUSION THAT U.S. "CONFIRMS AND REWARDS ROLE OF PHANTOMS IN KILLING INNOCENT POPULATION." SIMILARLY, BORBA IN FRONT-PAGE OCT 11 EDIT, "TYRANNY WITHOUT END," DECREES BOMBING OF NON-MILITARY TARGETS AND CLAIMS THAT ISRAEL FEELS ABLE TO ACT WITH IMPUNITY SINCE PROTECTION BY "EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES" ALLOWS NOT ONLY DELIVERY OF WEAPONS, BUT ALSO "RIGHT OF VETO TO BLOCK ACTION OF WORLD ORGANIZATION."

4. BELGRADE TV EVENING NEWS OCT 10 COMMENTED IN HARSH TONE ON ISRAELI AIR RAIDS, DESCRIBING DAYLIGHT AERIAL "MACHINE GUN ATTACKS ON INNOCENT POPULATION" AS REMINISCENT OF "HITLER'S STUKAS." TOON

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